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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Yes, Sir. I believe there is an investigation in connexion with the Uyyakondan."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Sir, there is mention made of a few thousand acres that have been silted up and do not require water for irrigation at present. May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member to tell me whether in consideration of this fact he will also consider a scheme to irrigate the Kadarambam parts ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Government would be very glad indeed if that can be done. It is entirely a question for the Irrigation Engineer whether they can get water on to the land."

Levy of penal rate in breach irrigation with reference to the cultivator.

*462 Q.—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in calculating the number of offences with a view to levy penal rate with reference to breach irrigation, reference is had to the land irrigated and not to the individual ryot cultivating the lands ; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government would adopt the practice of having reference to the cultivator and not to the lands ?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member will find set out on page 28 of Volume II of the Board's Standing Orders the rules for the levy of water-cess for water irregularly taken for irrigation.

(*b*) The suggestion appears to be based on the supposition that enhanced rates for irregular irrigation are charged with the object of punishing the person for the offence of taking the water. This is not so. The object of the rules is to prevent the irregular use of irrigation supplies. It is therefore the supply irregularly taken to a particular land that is charged for at progressively increasing rates irrespective of the taker or takers.

11-15 a.m. Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), may I know whether the recovery of the rent is going to be made from the person who uses the water or no ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" It will be made under the provisions of the Revenue Recovery Act."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know whether the person who takes the water is responsible or it is merely the land ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I think under the Revenue Recovery Act, the person responsible is the pattadar."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" The last part of the answer says, ' It is therefore the supply irregularly taken to a particular land that is charged for at progressively increasing rates irrespective of the taker or takers '. May I put the question to the hon. the Revenue Member this way ? Supposing a person comes into possession of the land either by purchase for the first time or becomes a lessee and makes irregular use of water ignorant of the fact that water was previously taken irregularly for that land, will it not be a hardship in such cases to charge progressive rates with reference to the land ? "

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" My question, Sir, is whether the Government will recover rent in such cases."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat."

Land Revenue

Method of better publicity of information to villagers.

* 463 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : With reference to the answer to question No. 315 answered on 8th September 1928, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have now considered how better publicity can be given to any notifications or other matter intended for the information of the villagers, particularly in the West Coast districts ; and

(b) if so, what conclusions they have arrived at thereon regarding this subject?

A. (a) & (b) The Board of Revenue has been asked for a report on the subject.

Legislative

Purchase of books for the Legislative Council Library.

* 464 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the firm from which books are bought for the Legislative Council Library;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is the only firm in Madras from which and through which books can be purchased for the library;

(c) if so, under what orders and what was the practice before ;

(d) whether the rates of that firm are higher or lower for books published outside India than any other firm in Madras ; or

(e) whether it is possible to get books directly from British or other European or American firms cheaper ; and

(f) what endeavours have been made to get books from or through firms outside India at cheaper rates in the past and at present?

A.—(a) Messrs. The Associated Publishers (Madras), Limited, Higginbothams Department, Mount Road.

(b) Yes ; unless books are urgently required and can be procured more promptly from another firm in India.

(c) Under the orders of the Government. The practice of purchasing books through the Associated Publishers has been in existence since 1927. Prior to that also books were purchased through a single firm.

(d), (e) & (f) The rates are in accordance with a contract which was entered into after tenders had been called for. The Government accepted what they considered to be the best of the tenders offered. They do not see their way to state the terms contained in other tenders.